

Attorney's Docket No. K&A 22-0586

APPLICATION

FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

SPECIFICATION

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT I, **DOREEN M. AUCHMOODY**, a citizen of **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**, have invented a new and useful **CLEANING PAD INSERTION TOOL** of which the following is a specification:

CLEANING PAD INSERTION TOOL

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

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The present invention relates to electrostatic mops and more particularly pertains to a new cleaning pad insertion tool for facilitating coupling of disposable cleaning wipes onto a head of an electrostatic mop by inserting a portion of the disposable cleaning
15 wipe into a grip assembly of the electrostatic mop.

Description of the Prior Art

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The use of electrostatic mops is known in the prior art. More specifically, electrostatic mops heretofore devised and utilized are known to consist basically of familiar, expected and obvious structural configurations, notwithstanding the myriad of designs encompassed by the crowded prior art which have been developed for the fulfillment of countless objectives and requirements.

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Known prior art includes U.S. Patent No. 6,202,250; U.S. Patent No. 5,915,437; U.S. Patent No. 6,305,046; U.S. Patent No. 2,339,187; U.S. Patent No. 6,098,239; U.S. Patent No. 5,323,507; U.S. Patent No. 4,971,471; U.S. Patent No. 4,712,268; U.S. Patent
30 No. 3,877,103; and U.S. Patent No. 3,099,855.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description

5 thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

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In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of the invention in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and to the arrangements of the components set forth in the following

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description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose of description and should not be regarded as limiting.

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As such, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the conception, upon which this disclosure is based, may readily be utilized as a basis for the designing of other structures, methods and systems for carrying out the several purposes of the present 25 invention. It is important, therefore, that the claims be regarded as including such equivalent constructions insofar as they do not depart from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

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Further, the purpose of the foregoing abstract is to enable the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the public generally, and especially the scientists, engineers and practitioners in the art who are not familiar with patent or legal terms or phraseology, to

determine quickly from a cursory inspection the nature and essence of the technical disclosure of the application. The abstract is neither intended to define the invention of the application, which is measured by the claims, nor is it intended to be limiting as to the 5 scope of the invention in any way.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a insertion tool and method which has many of the advantages of the insertion assistance devices mentioned heretofore and many novel 10 features that result in insertion tool which is not anticipated, rendered obvious, suggested, or even implied by any of the prior art insertion assistance devices, either alone or in any combination thereof.

15 It is another object of the present invention to provide a new insertion tool which may be easily and efficiently manufactured and marketed.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a new 20 insertion tool which is of a durable and reliable construction.

An even further object of the present invention is to provide a insertion tool which is susceptible of a low cost of manufacture with regard to both materials and labor, and which accordingly is 25 then susceptible of low prices of sale to the consuming public, thereby making such insertion tool economically available to the buying public.

Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide 30 a insertion tool which provides in the apparatuses and methods of the prior art some of the advantages thereof, while simultaneously

overcoming some of the disadvantages normally associated therewith.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a new 5 cleaning pad insertion tool that protects the fingers and nails of a user by providing a tool to insert a cleaning wipe into a grip assembly of an electrostatic mop.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a 10 new cleaning pad insertion tool that insures proper contact of a cleaning wipe with a grip assembly of an electrostatic mop.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a securing means for storing the tool when not in use.

15 Even still another object of the present invention is to provide a tether member having enough length to allow the tool to reach each of the grip assemblies while coupling the tool to the electrostatic mop to prevent loss.

20 To this end, the present invention generally comprises an elongate member adapted for pressing a portion of a disposable cleaning wipe into at least one grip assembly on a head of an electrostatic mop; a clip portion operationally couplable to a handle 25 of the electrostatic mop for selectively receiving the elongate member when not in use; and a tether member couplable to the elongate member and the a handle of the electrostatic mop for inhibiting loss of the elongate member.

30 The objects of the invention, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with

particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

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The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

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Figure 1 is a schematic perspective view of a new cleaning pad insertion tool according to the present invention.

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Figure 2 is a schematic perspective view of and embodiment of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to 20 Figures 1 and 2 thereof, a new cleaning pad insertion tool embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and generally designated by the reference numeral 10 will be described.

As best illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, the cleaning pad 25 insertion tool 10 generally comprises an elongate member 20, a tether member 30 and a clip portion 40.

In a preferred embodiment, the clip portion 40 is integrally forming into a lower portion of the handle 4 of an electrostatic mop 30 2. The clip portion 40 selectively retains the elongate member 20, when the elongate member 20 is not in use. The tether member 30 is coupled to both the handle portion 4 of the electrostatic mop 2 and the elongate member 20 to inhibit losing the elongate member

20. Most preferably, the tether member 30 has enough length to permit the easy use of the elongate member 20 at each of the grip assemblies 8 on the head 6 of the electrostatic mop 2, but is short enough to avoid dragging on the floor when the elongate member 20
5 is retained by the clip portion 40.

The present invention also contemplates an embodiment wherein the elongate member 20, the clip portion 40 and the tether member 30 are provided as aftermarket accessories to conventional 10 electrostatic mops 2. In this embodiment, the tether member 30, and the elongate member 20 remain substantially unchanged. The clip portion 40 is designed to couple to an existing handle 4 of a conventional electrostatic mop 2.

15 In use, the disposable cleaning wipe is positioned onto the head portion of the electrostatic mop with a portion of the disposable cleaning wipe overlapping each one of the grip assemblies on the head portion. The user grips the second end of the elongate member in a hand. The user then positions the first 20 end of the elongate member on a portion of the disposable cleaning wipe abutting a grip assembly. The user next presses the portion of the disposable cleaning wipe into the grip assembly using the first end. The user then repeats the steps of positioning the first end and pressing a portion of the disposable cloth using the first end 25 until each portion of the disposable cleaning wipe abutting a grip assembly has been secured. After use, the user then places the elongate member into the clip portion for storage until needed for the next disposable cleaning wipe.

With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed 5 readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

10 Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable 15 modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.